



# the collegian

INDEPENDENT VOICE FOR KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY



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02

**Be our guest**  
Check out a list of fun things to do while in Manhattan

03

**Perfect portfolio**  
What does your resume say about you? Read our tips

04

**Taking it way back**  
Get a little history about graduation and commencement

05

**Simple gifts**  
Don't know what to get your grad? We can help with that

06

**Wildcat country**  
A year in photos of K-State activities and adventures

## K-State memories, advice from alumni



Tommy Theis | Collegian

In front of a host of purple-clad fans, the K-State football team, led by Willie the Wildcat, gets pumped up as they enter onto the field in Bill Snyder Family Stadium moments before taking on the Kansas Jayhawks on Oct. 6, 2012. The Wildcats beat the Jayhawks 56-16.

**Kaitlyn Dewell**  
staff writer

The university experience is unique in many ways, including the fact that college somehow manages to simultaneously seem like the longest, yet shortest years in one's life. As members of the ever-fighting K-State family, we know all too well that despite the countless all-night study affairs, hopeless essay exams and endless research papers, our Alma Mater will never cease to be a spot that we all love.

This year's graduating class knows this paradigm of "slowly fleeting" semesters all too well. Soon, they will be making their voyage first across the stage in Bramlage Coliseum to receive their diplomas, and then into the real world where they will put all of the practical knowledge they have acquired over the past several years to good use.

Exiting the Manhattan bubble in the transition away from college life can be a tricky one. To aid in this transition, K-State alumni from across the nation offered advice to our newest group of Wildcats who are finally poised to leave the nest.

Kyle Landau, who graduated last

year and is currently pursuing a career in Texas, said that he misses the atmosphere and various organizations that he was involved in at K-State.

"I miss everything!" Landau said in a phone interview on Monday.

**"Be proud of where you came from. You'll have to get your feet dirty to move up. You won't start off making six figures. But if you keep your values and core ethics the same, you'll make the university proud of you."**

"I miss having the ability to pursue what I'm intellectually curious about. And obviously, I miss performing with the K-State Singers. It's a lot harder to find places that have that same kind of outlet outside of college."

Landau also added that maintaining contact with college connections is an imperative priority, especially for those who might be moving away from the Kansas area, as they're often some of the best guides for career and life advice.

Rachel Day, a 2010 graduate in advertising, echoed Landau's advice on keeping your college

pals a priority, but added that she also just really misses Manhattan in general.

"I think I just miss the small town community of Manhattan," Day said. "I miss the spirit of the community as well. It's so great that isn't

just the students that show support for the school."

Most current students do not need affirmation from recent graduates that the genuine atmosphere of our university has been one of our central values for the past half-decade. Conversations with alumni who attended K-State many years ago confirmed that the K-State family is truly a legacy that has been fondly passed on from one generation to the next.

Steve Liebl graduated from the KSU Vet Med program in 1981 and has been pursuing his career in veterinary medicine all the way in Tor-

rance, California ever since.

"Some of my favorite memories at K-State were at the football and basketball games," Liebl said. "Vet school was long, hard hours, and being out there with friends, doing the Wabash and celebrating the comradery we had, that's college."

Liebl also said that he feels that it is important to reflect on the fundamental elements of K-State that have not changed since his time here.

"I think K-State is still just down-to-earth, grounded people," he said. "On the west coast, I don't think people have a real idea of what that means. I like the Midwest attitude, and I only hire Midwest vets. But K-State is just full of good people, and that hasn't changed at all."

Liebl said that while students can be sure that the university will keep track of them even after graduation, it is important to keep track of the values that the university has provided us all with.

"Be proud of where you came from," Liebl said. "You'll have to get your feet dirty to move up. You won't start off making six figures. But if you keep your values and core ethics the same, you'll make the university proud of you."

**Steve Liebl**

1981 Vet Med graduate

## Alumni Association helps graduating students stay connected

**Val Good-Turney**  
staff writer

As graduation nears, thousands of seniors are getting ready to leave K-State. One way for them to stay connected with their alma mater and classmates is by utilizing the K-State Alumni Association.

The Alumni Association, which is located in the Alumni Center on campus, offers a variety of services and discounts to K-State alumni who have a member-

ship. In order for students to become familiar with these deals and opportunities, each graduate is provided with a free first year of membership, courtesy of their college.

The Alumni Association has been around since 1874; it was started only 11 years after K-State was founded. It currently has over 41,000 members.

"We are number one in the Big 12 for our number of members, and it's been that

way for 17 years," said Kelly Law, director of membership and marketing for the Alumni Association. "If you do a survey of our alumni, the number one reason they say they join is out of loyalty, which is awesome that it's not a T-shirt or a giveaway. It's that they purely want to be a part of K-State."

Alumni who have graduated with their first K-State degree within the last five years are eligible for a membership rate of \$20 per year.

Benefits include an annual K-State wall calendar, career advice services, subscription to the quarterly K-Stater magazine and discounts on many other products and services. These discounts include athletic tickets, nearby hotel rooms and Kaplan Test Prep tutoring.

"I think the biggest thing that our members like right now is the K-Stater magazine because it encompasses the whole campus," Law said. "You see what things

are happening in each of the colleges, and in Manhattan, and different events and just what alumni and current students are doing. They'll say that's the best way that they can stay informed."

Gavin Hargrave, associate director of alumni programs with the Alumni Association, recommends that graduates keep K-State informed about how to contact them.

ALUMNI | pg. 5

## Big events in last 4 years at K-State

**Jena Sauber**  
edge editor

As students prepare to graduate and leave K-State and Manhattan, they often look back over their time spent as a Wildcat in the Little Apple. Over the last four years, students have seen many changes. To help students wander back down memory lane before walking across the stage, here are some major events that have occurred in graduating K-Staters' last four years.

### August 2009

-Bill Snyder returns to K-State as head football coach after previously leaving in 2005.

### January 2010

-Students begin classes in the newly constructed School of Leadership Studies building, the first LEED-certified "green" building on campus.

### February 2010

-The K-State 2025 plan is launched.

### August 2010

-Construction begins on the Chester E. Peters Recreation Complex expansion and renovation. The project, which is expected to cost \$23 million dollars, was approved in 2007.

### November 2010

-Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Health and Human Services, is the Landon Lecture speaker.

### December 2010

-The K-State football team places in the Pinstripe Bowl, losing to Syracuse, 36-34.

### 2010

-The population of Manhattan reaches 52,281, finally breaking the 50,000 mark.

### January 2011

-Kansas celebrates 150 years as a state.

-Sonia Sotomayor, U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice, is the Landon Lecture speaker.

### April 2011

-The K-State Olathe campus opens.

### January 2012

-The K-State football team plays in the Cotton Bowl, losing to Arkansas, 29-16.

### February 2012

-The K-State recycling center opens.

### August 2012

-K-State enrollment surpasses 24,000 with a record enrollment of 24,378.

### January 2013

-K-State football plays in the Fiesta Bowl and loses to Oregon, 35-17.

-K-State celebrates 150 years as a university.

-The Chester E. Peters Recreation Complex opens the new recreation areas, including two climbing walls. Construction continues on certain areas of the complex, almost a year after the initial proposed finish date.

### April 2013

-Students pass the K-State Student Union referendum, approving a \$25 million dollar project to improve the Union by 2019.

compiled by Darrington Clark

## 2013 Graduation Commencement Schedule

**Friday, May 17, 2013**  
Bramlage Coliseum: 1:00 p.m., **Graduate School**  
McCain Auditorium: 3:30 p.m., **Veterinary Medicine**

**Saturday, May 18, 2013**  
Bramlage Coliseum: 8:30 a.m., **Arts & Sciences**  
11:00 a.m., **Education**  
12:30 p.m., **Business Administration**  
2:15 p.m., **Agriculture**  
4:15 p.m., **Human Ecology**

6:15 p.m., **Engineering**  
McCain Auditorium: 10:00 a.m., **Architecture, Planning & Design**

**Information for graduates:**  
-Leave all valuables and personal belongings at home, in your car or with a friend or family member, as there will be no checking area. Graduates will assemble in alphabetical order within degree groups.

A college marshal will direct the formation of the processional march and provide you with a name card to give to the commencement announcer onstage.

**Information for guests:**  
-Tickets are required for main floor seating at the ceremonies held at McCain Auditorium. All of the seats in the balcony will be open seating and do not require

a ticket. Lobby doors at McCain Auditorium open at 8 a.m. Friday, May 17 and 7:30 a.m. Saturday, May 18 with doors to the seating areas opening one hour before each ceremony. Limited lobby seating will be available. -Ceremonies in Bramlage Coliseum are open to the public and do not require a ticket, however seating will be limited if a college has a large number of graduates.

Lobby doors at Bramlage Coliseum open at 12:00 p.m. Friday, May 17 and 7:30 a.m. Saturday, May 18. Guests should enter the coliseum's northwest and northeast doors.

Any questions regarding McCain Auditorium ceremonies should be directed to Terri Lee, associate director of McCain Auditorium at 785-532-6425.

Any questions regarding Bramlage Coliseum ceremonies should be directed to Jim Mueller, director of facilities and maintenance for K-State Athletics at 785-532-7600.

For more information on parking, dress etiquette, transcript requests or any other questions, please visit [k-state.edu/registrar/c\\_dl/](http://k-state.edu/registrar/c_dl/).



# Logan’s Run | By Aaron Logan



# Graduate reports reveal “best” majors based on demand, salary

**Lindsey Staab**  
staff writer

As students prepare to graduate from college, there are many decisions to be made. What is the next step? Whether that next step be graduate school, the military or a career, it can be difficult for many students to decide what to do with themselves after graduation.

Hoard of reports and articles come out every year claiming to know which majors and career paths are the “best,” but they typically fail to define what they mean by “best.” For example, in a recent Princeton Review article, the 10 “top” college majors are listed with the warning that “these are not necessarily the degrees that garner the most demand in the job market.”

When looking into which degree or career to pursue, it is perhaps best to determine what factors are important to each individual, said

Kerri Day Keller, director of Career and Employment Services.

“There are majors that may connect to the most job openings, there are majors that relate to the highest paying jobs and there are majors that are the best fit for one’s own interests and skills,” Keller said.

CES provides post-graduate reports on graduates up to six months after graduation. These reports show salaries earned by college and major depending on degree, a summation of geographic location by state of employed college graduates and university graduation rates. All of these factors serve as criteria for discovering the best careers and majors.

According to K-State’s 2011-2012 post-graduate report, about 71 percent of graduates were employed, 18 percent were enrolled in graduate school, six percent were seeking employment, three percent were seeking other education

and two percent did not fit into any of those categories.

Another of K-State’s post-graduate reports focuses on geographic location of graduate employment by state. According to the 2011-2012 report, 61 percent of graduates remain in Kansas after graduation, eleven percent live in Missouri and four percent live in Texas.

In terms of demand, employment offers vary greatly between majors. Some of the majors that garnered the most employment offers in the 2011-2012 school year include mechanical engineering, elementary education, family studies and human services, animal science and industry, finance and mass communications.

Majors with the highest average salary offerings include electrical engineering, computer engineering, chemical engineering, milling science and management, management information systems and accounting.



David Madden, freshman in chemical engineering, measures a volume of water for use in a chemical reaction during the ChemE Car design team’s weekly meeting Feb. 19 in the Engineering Complex.



Matthew Christensen, freshman in chemical engineering, measures out volumes for different concentrations of a solution for use in a chemical reaction during the ChemE Car design team’s weekly meeting Feb. 19 in the Engineering Complex.

# Manhattan offers many attractions to entertain graduation guests

**David Mejia-Zaccaro**  
staff writer

As students prepare to graduate this month, many families are planning trips to the Little Apple to celebrate their K-State graduate’s accomplishments.

While the graduation ceremony is typically the main attraction for families and students on graduation weekend, Manhattan offers many other attractions for guests to enjoy as well. From outdoorsy to historical, Manhattan offers many family-friendly, inexpensive attractions.

**Tuttle Creek State Park**

For outdoorsy families, Tuttle Creek State Park is a great place to relax and get away from the city limits. Tuttle Creek offers offers primitive campsites, swimming areas, cabin rentals, boat ramps, a full service marina, nature trails, mountain bike trails, equestrian trails, picnic areas, an 18-hole disc golf course, an archery range, volleyball courts and

horseshoe pits.

Day parking permits are required and are \$5.00. Overnight camping requires a camping permit, which is \$8.00. For more information, visit [kdwpt.state.ks.us/](http://kdwpt.state.ks.us/).

**City Splash Park**

If the weather is warm on graduation weekend, going for a dip in the pool can be a great way to relax. The City Splash Park, located in City Park at the intersection of Poyntz Ave. and 11th Street, is open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week.

The park also includes two shelter houses, tennis courts, a basketball court, play ground, picnic tables and baseball diamonds. Grills are also available at select picnic tables.

**Colbert Hills Golf Course**

If graduation weekend is stressful, retreat to the Colbert Hills Golf Course, 5200 Colbert Hills Drive, to relax. Non-golfers in the family can hang out in the clubhouse or

enjoy lunch or dinner at the restaurant. For more information, visit [colberthills.com](http://colberthills.com) or call 785-776-6475.

**Sunset Zoo**

The Sunset Zoo, 2333 Oak St., is home to more than 300 animals. The zoo is open seven days a week, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission is \$4 for adults, and \$2 for children ages 3-12. Children under three are free. The zoo features an African Forest Trail, Asian Forest Trail and Australian Walk About, as well as a butterfly garden, picnic shelters and playground.

**The Kansas State University Gardens**

This garden, located at the intersection of Denison Ave. and Claflin Rd., is maintained by the K-State Department of Horticulture, Forestry and Recreation Resources. It is open to the public during daylight hours and is free. The colorful flowers and beautiful garden

layout make it a nice place to take graduation or family photos on the big weekend.

**Riley County Historical Museum**

To learn more about the town in which the university is centered, visit the Riley County Historical Museum at 2309 Claflin Road. Exhibits display manuscripts, letters, photographs and other artifacts from the Manhattan area. The museum is open from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays. Admission is free. For more information, visit [rileycountyks.gov](http://rileycountyks.gov).

**The Goodnow House**

This historic house, 2301 Claflin Road, was built by Isaac Goodnow and his wife Ellen in 1861. The Goownows were an abolitionist couple and co-founders of both Kansas State University and Manhattan. Their namesake has since been given to a residence hall on the K-State campus, Goodnow Hall. The Goodnow house is

open from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays and is free to tour.

**Aggie Station**

Aggie Station, 1119 Moro St., is a great place for brunch, lunch or dinner. Dishes include the traditional cheeseburger and fish and chips. One popular appetizer, said Sofia Macarena Moreno, sophomore in biology and bartender at Aggie Station, is the duck-fat fries: french fries that are fried in duck fat and seasoned with Parmesan cheese and basil.

**Keltic Star**

For families looking for somewhere to have lunch or dinner with drinks, this traditional Celtic pub, located at 1215 Moro St., is a great choice. The menu includes many traditional dishes, as well as some American favorites. They also have many traditional Irish and British style beers, as well as other drinks.

“It is a great place to

come with your family,” said Andres Pecci, freshman in agribusiness. “The service is excellent and the servers will have your food prepped in no time. And the fish and chips made from beer batter: you have to love those.”

**Kite’s Bar and Grill**

A staple of Aggieville, Kites Bar and Grill, 615 N 12th St., was opened in 1954. At night, it is a popular bar for college students, but during the day it features many all-American favorites such as the Wildcat Burger, K’s Philly and the Dumptruck desert. Catering is also available for graduation receptions.

Kite’s will be a popular destination for families come graduation weekend, said Ciro Cudas, K-State graduate student in marketing.

“Given the chance, I’d always come here with my old folks. I will just pretend I don’t know the bartenders too well,” Cudas said.

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# Resumes preparation for future, not reflection of past

Kaitlyn Dewell  
staff writer

The unemployment rate in America is still hovering around 7.6 percent, according to March 2013 statistics. For those graduating in the upcoming weeks, this may be a slightly unsettling number looming over their entrance into the real world, especially for those still on the hunt for a full-time job. To ensure that graduation is followed by a job offer, students can polish their resumes before walking across the stage.

"It's important to have a strong resume in order to make a great first impression," said Katy Zapletal, K-State admissions representative. "You have to be able to come across on paper as you would in person."

While most students have a general idea about what is included in a resume, there are not many guidelines about how to make a resume stand out. Kerri Day Keller, director of career and employment services, offered some helpful advice on the "Dos" and "Don'ts" of successful resume-building and the importance of having a good resume.

"This may seem a little bit odd, but resumes are actually about your future. They're not really about your past," Keller said. "You are conveying what you've done, but you're trying to convey it in a way that moves you toward where you're going."

It is important to always put yourself in the shoes of whoever will be reading your resume to better connect yourself specifically to the position that you're applying for, Keller said.

"I think students need to be thinking about why there are certain organizations that they're interested in applying for," Keller said. "Why this particular job? What's the connection? Is it because you already have experience in the area and this is the next natural step? You need to show some sort of connection."

It is important for job-seeking students to keep in mind that a resume is not a confessional, Keller said. She said that generally, just-graduated individuals should keep their resume to approximately one page worth of extremely relevant material, rather than a complete collection of every single club and activity they have ever been a member of.

"I think this is really hard for students because you feel like you have to put everything on that sheet of paper, and you really have to be pretty selective," Keller said. "We have so many employers who emphasize to us that they don't necessarily want a whole laundry list of every single organization you've ever been in. But, if you list one or two organizations and then talk about how you really made a difference in them, that's really what they want to know."

Another element of emphasis on Keller's resume checklist is finding the perfect balance of honesty and creativity by accurately portraying what your past work experience has been. Confidence and self-promotion are key in this step.

Andrew Waldman, senior in industrial engineering, said that he thinks his personal utilization of the practice of effective resume building has helped him land positions in



Parker Robb | Collegian

**Jorge Plocuda**, assistant with Career and Employment Services and graduate student in psychology, helps **Shai Washington**, freshman in political science, improve her resume May 1 in Holtz Hall, the home of CES. In addition to resume critiquing, Career and Employment Services offers other resources and assistance to students who are job hunting such as mock interviews, internship and job listings, and professional attire rental.

fairly competitive internships two summers in a row.

"One piece of advice I have for other students is to remember that your resume is the one time it's socially acceptable to brag on yourself," Waldman said. "You don't want to sound arrogant, but don't downplay your involvement. Make yourself stand out, because sometimes that's the only chance you get with a potential employer."

Regarding the most common mistakes that can immediately remove a hopeful from the running for a particular job, Keller said that typos, such as grammatical errors and misspellings, are some of the easiest mistakes to miss, yet also the most detrimental.

"I've seen so many embarrassing and just poorly written resumes that have typos in them that an employer is unfortunately going to make some judgments about in terms of your attention to detail," she said. "They're going to wonder if what you've already shown them is a reflection of how you would perform on the job as well."

Other important considerations in resume building include seeking the advice of an established professional within your industry to ensure the relevance of your information, as well as utilizing on-campus resources, such as "Walk-In Wednesdays" through Career and Employment Services.

As for the best piece of advice on writing a resume, Keller said "I think job seekers really need to convey who they are in some way. You need to be able to share that unwritten sense of who you are as a person and who you are becoming."

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# INTERSESSION

2013

**On-campus and online classes between terms**  
**May:** May 20–June 7, 2013 • **August:** August 5–21, 2013

**KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY**

Division of Continuing Education





# Graduating students reflect on their time at K-State



Russell Edem | Collegian

Aggieville offers a variety of restaurants and entertainment options for celebrating during graduation weekend. Relaxing and celebrating in the Aggieville business district has been a tradition for K-State students and alumni since the university's establishment in 1889.

**David Mejia-Zaccaro**  
staff writer

Graduation is a time of reflection on the past and preparation for the future. As thousands of K-State students prepare to leave the campus in search of jobs or further education, many reflect on the four (or five or six) years they have spent at K-State.

As Stephanie Jacquez, senior in food science and industry, prepares for graduation, she reflects on her academic path and how it affected her K-State experience.

"Working on the Dr. Susan Brown lab as an undergraduate researcher

is something irreplaceable, and definitely something to be missed as my career unwinds," Jacquez said. "I will also miss the ups and downs of being actively engaged in the Developing Scholars Program of K-State."

Santiago Fretes, senior in architecture, is preparing to graduate and move to Florida for a job and reflects on the social aspects of his time at K-State.

"During my life, friends have come as easily as they've left...but I feel that those friends that I've made during my period here are the most valuable to me," Fretes said.

Juan C. Banuelas, senior in civil engineering, believes that the pro-

fessional knowledge he gained and the legacy he left behind at the university will stay with him after graduation.

"Those rewarding experiences I gained while working with several organizations and classmates are what I will remember and miss the most. I would like to have left a great established foundation of which I would be proud to look back and say 'I was proud of that,'" Banuelas said. "The fact that teachers care about your learning experience also encourages us to reach beyond our limitations and not just learn more academically, but also personally and professionally."

For Fernando Fretes, senior in agronomy, it is the culture of K-State that he will remember the most.

"The ease in which I was able to meet different people of different backgrounds and ethnicities, being able to experience and learn rich new ways that seemed outlandish to me is simply a treasure that I find invaluable for my development," Fretes said. "The many road trips I made around Kansas and the U.S. as a whole are among the things that I will tell my grandchildren about."

Hernan Segovia, fall 2012 graduate in marketing, said that although he does miss the academics and professional development sides of

K-State, it is the social aspects he misses the most.

"I feel that among many things, the familiarity of Aggieville and [both] the many things that I remember and those that I don't are simply something that will forever stay in the dusty roads of Manhattan," Segovia said. "It will be hard to replace a location like this that taught me so much."

Although all K-State graduates will likely miss different aspects of the university, these graduates all explained one thing they were each going to miss — the sense of family that the university provides to everyone who comes here.

## History of commencement

**Lyndsey Staab**  
staff writer

Balloons, parties, caps, gowns and diplomas; all of these are iconic symbols of graduation ceremonies. Between the hustle and bustle of applying for graduation and welcoming family to town, it can be easy to overlook the end goal and how the ceremony came to be so important.

The typical graduation attire, a gown and mortar board cap, has a long history in the commencement ceremony. According to the American Council on Education, the history of the cap and gown dates back to the 12th and 13th centuries, when long gowns were worn possibly in order to stay warm. In late 14th century England, certain colleges actually disallowed the wearing of what they referred to as "excess in apparel," and required long gowns to be worn instead.

Academic regalia in the United States has strong roots in European customs. Typically, gowns for recipients of bachelors and master's degrees

go untrimmed, meaning they are relatively plain. Those receiving their doctoral degree get the privilege of wearing colored trimmings and may have colored cross-barring on their gowns.

The colors worn vary according to the graduate's honors as well as their chosen discipline. Some of the colors associated with these disciplines include yellow for agriculture, white for arts and humanities, light blue for education, brown for fine arts and architecture, crimson for journalism, golden yellow for science and pink for music.

The graduation cap goes by many names such as mortarboard, oxford cap or corner-cap if you are Australian, but they all serve the same function: to distinguish academic achievement. According to the U.S. Naval Academy website, it is thought that the academy's graduating class of 1912 was the group who initiated the tradition of throwing the caps into the air after the graduation ceremony.

The story goes that the mid-

shipmen who were graduating that year were the first group who were not required to serve two years in the fleet after graduation. Excited, they threw their caps in the air. James Cheevers, Naval Academy Historian, notes that the first image of graduation cap throwing was shown in the 1926 Lucky Bag, the Naval Academy yearbook.

Part of the buzz associated with graduation has to do with who will give the commencement speech. Last year, K-State had privilege of hosting former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates as the speaker for the Graduate School ceremony on the Manhattan campus.

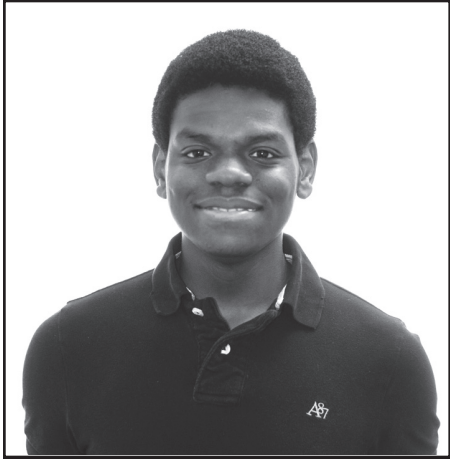
Although it is common practice for university commencement speakers to be awarded honorary degrees, Gates was the first individual to receive an honorary doctoral degree from K-State since 1988. An honorary degree is an academic degree that a university awards a distinguished individual who typically has not had any prior

HISTORY | pg. 5

## STAY UP-TO-DATE

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### Collegian Media Group Congratulates



**Darrington Clark**

Sophomore, journalism & digital media

For winning **1st Place** in General Column Writing in The Society of Professional Journalists' Mark of Excellence Awards for Region 7



**Jakki Thompson**

Sophomore, journalism & digital media

For winning **2nd Place** in General Column Writing in The Society of Professional Journalists' Mark of Excellence Awards for Region 7



**The Collegian**

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# Graduate school rewarding, but not for everyone



As I approach the end of my first year of graduate school, I think back to this time last year when I basically panicked on the last day of finals week and applied to grad school. While I wouldn't recommend this kind of life-planning to others, the fact is that, for me, going to grad school was the right choice. Many of you who are graduating may be considering continuing your education, and so here's a list of what have been the pros and cons of grad school for me thus far.

**Pro: You get to focus on the things that interest you**

While the end of your undergraduate years allow you to focus more on your own interests to a point, graduate school allows you even more freedom. Although it can be overwhelming for those who are unsure where exactly their research interests lie, the fact is that you will never have to take an intro class unrelated to your major again — this is a beautiful thing.

Even though I'm still undecided about my ultimate research goals, I do know what interests me and have only taken classes that I find engaging and helpful, which was, unfortunately, not always the case during my undergrad years.

**Con: You might end up with more student debt**

Student loans are by far one of the worst things about pursuing higher education, period, and worries about loans can be extremely overwhelming. While many graduate programs offer funding and GTA positions, sometimes that

can't cover everything.

Simultaneously, continuing with your education in a poor job market can mean that you will not have to start paying back student loans until you have a master's or doctoral degree, which could result in a much higher salary.

Still, student loans are nothing to scoff at, and it is important to consider your financial situation before going to graduate school.

**Pro: Fewer classes**

One of the worst things about undergraduate work is the feeling of being spread way too thin when taking four or five classes on differing subjects. In graduate school, most students take either two or three classes a semester, and while they are more challenging and demanding, it is still nice to have fewer subjects to tackle.

Also, because graduate programs center around one department, it is more likely that your classes will be related, meaning you will sometimes have content

overlap and often will find something you read in one class helpful in another.

**Con: It's not easy**

As mentioned above, it is a relief to have fewer classes, but graduate school is not a cakewalk. As a student in the English department, I feel that my professors are always willing to help, but they also expect me to produce high quality work without hand-holding. The fact is that the other people in your program were at the top of their class during undergrad just like you were, so you will find yourself surrounded by other students that work just as hard and are just as smart as you, so standards will be higher.

Simultaneously, doing well in a challenging class is one of the most satisfying feelings in the world, and gaining recognition for your work is a really incredible experience. If you're not willing to work hard, then grad school is not for you. If you're ready for a

challenge, then full steam ahead.

**Pro: You get to be surrounded by people with your interests**

One of the best things about being in graduate school is being surrounded by other students who are just as nerdy and excited about the same things that you are. Nobody looks at me weird for getting excited about Harry Potter or discussing book characters like they are real people.

Also, when things get tough, the fact is that there are other people, those you respect for their hard work and intelligence, who are struggling just as much as you are, and that can be incredibly comforting. If you do decide to go to graduate school, don't isolate yourself from others in your program; you could be missing out on great friendships and learning opportunities.

Laura Thacker is a graduate student in English. Please send comments to [edge@kstatecollegian.com](mailto:edge@kstatecollegian.com).

# K-Staters provide helpful tips on choosing perfect graduation gift

Karina Fiegelist  
contributing writer

Graduation is getting close for a lot of K-Staters, and many families and friends are searching for the perfect gift to give to the graduating K-Stater. Should it be something to commemorate the time spent at K-State? Or something to prepare them for the next

chapter of their life? The choices are endless.

"Any gift is always welcome, but a good tip to think about when purchasing a gift is to think on the practicality and use," said Rodrigo Marin, an agricultural economics alumnus who graduated last fall.

Practicality and usefulness are keys to picking the perfect gift, as is knowing the student,

said Rene Hernandez, sophomore in marketing.

"What helps me pick a gift for a graduating student is to know what is their major," Hernandez said.

Allison Bosch, junior in marketing, enjoys giving more sentimental gifts for college graduation.

"Something meaningful that it doesn't matter how

much it cost to keep as a memory of their college experience," Bosch said.

For people looking for K-State themed gifts or who plan to wait until they get to Manhattan to pick up a present, Varney's Bookstore, the official bookstore of K-State, has many gift ideas. Graduation is a particularly busy time for the store, said Brittany Johnson,

marketing coordinator for Varney's.

More personalized gifts, such as class rings or plaques, can be ordered off of the store's website at [varneys.com](http://varneys.com). If this is the route family and friends choose, Johnson has some advice.

"If you are interested in those, order them as soon as possible," Johnson said.

When looking for the perfect gift for a graduate, balance practicality and novelty, and perhaps a little personalization to find just what your graduate wants.

*Editor's Note: This article was completed as an assignment for a class in the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications.*



# Students plan for life after graduation, give advice on job hunting

Belema Iyo  
staff writer

As many students anticipate graduation, it is time to make plans for the next step. Some graduates have jobs lined up while others are looking for employment. Some are applying to graduate school, and still others are not exactly sure what to do after graduation.

According to data collected from 2011-2012 by Career and Employment services, 92 percent of graduates who obtained a bachelor's degree at K-State were employed or pursuing higher degrees or education.

According to the report, 88 percent of students with master's degrees and 93 percent of students with doctoral degrees found employment. Sixty-one percent of graduates remained in Kansas after graduation.

Kristen McCormick, senior in life science and gerontology, has a plan for after graduation.

"I will work at a clinic as a Certified Nurse Aide this summer, then in July I will start Medical School at KU Med in Wichita," McCormick said.

McCormick feels confident that she will be able to find a job after graduation.

"I'm thankful to be entering a field in which there is almost unlimited job security," McCormick said. "People will always need health care. My heart

**"I advise future graduates to, while at K-State, make sure to start getting prepared for the professional business world as early as possible."**

Tracy Gettinger  
senior in business administration

goes out to those searching for jobs right now. I can't imagine how frustrating it might get with the limited job market.

One student facing challenges in finding a job is Tracy Gettinger, senior in business administration. Her job search is narrowed by her desired geographical location.

"My plan is to find a job in either Manhattan, Kansas or Kansas City to stay close to

family," Gettinger said.

She said that it has not been an easy search.

"There is more competition for certain jobs I have applied for than I was prepared for," Gettinger said. "I advise future graduates to, while at K-State, make sure to start getting prepared for the professional business world as early as possible."

As she prepares leave Manhattan, McCormick reflects on her time spent at the university.

"I will miss all of the amazing, world-changing people I met here, as well as the insanely enriching experiences I've had," McCormick said. "What made

my entire senior year were our Big XII Championships in both football and basketball. Our faculty and staff are doing great things to advance this university. I'm glad to say I've been able to witness it."

McCormick also has advice for current students on looking for jobs after graduation.

"My advice to both future and current graduates is to stay positive and not be afraid to persist in applying to either jobs or graduate school," McCormick said. "If your dreams are worth pursuing, they're worth pursuing for the long haul."

## ALUMNI | Graduates remain involved

Continued from page 1

"The number one most important thing to keep them connected is to let us know their contact information, because if we don't know where you live, it's kind of hard for us to keep you connected to other K-Staters in the area," Hargrave said.

There are about 85 K-State alumni clubs located throughout the country. The clubs put on different events and help bring together Wildcats across the nation.

Some of the biggest events that alumni are a part of include Homecoming and the Wabash CannonBall gala.

The Alumni Association

sends out save-the-dates to remind alumni of Homecoming, though the organization knows that not everyone can make it back for this K-State tradition. For this reason, the association posts videos on its social media accounts of the special Homecoming events the day after they happen.

The Wabash CannonBall is an annual black-tie event that takes place in Kansas City. So far, it has raised over \$1.6 million, which is used for scholarships for students in the area. Due to its success, another Wabash CannonBall is being planned to take place in Colorado next year.

There are even opportunities available for current K-Staters

to get updates and discounts through the Alumni Association.

"We also have a program called Wildcats Forever, which is for the current students," said Megan Sherlock, associate director of student programs for the Alumni Association. "It's a great way for students to start being affiliated with the Alumni Association before they even graduate, so creating that link while they're here on campus."

The Alumni Association is putting on a Grad Bash for all May, August and December 2013 graduates. It will be Thursday, May 9 from 4-6 p.m. in the Alumni Center terrace. There will be free food, live music and giveaways.

## HISTORY | Lavender Graduation held to celebrate LGBTQ community

Continued from page 4

affiliation with the institution. This is meant to honor the individual's contributions to a specific field, while bypassing all of the usual academic requirements of a standard graduate.

This year, former Cargill Inc. CEO and K-State alumnus Warren Staley will give the commencement speech and receiving an honorary doctoral degree at the Graduate School's commencement ceremony on May 17.

One tradition that has de-

veloped and spread within the last 20 years is Lavender Graduation. Originally founded at the University of Michigan in 1995, Lavender Graduation is "a celebration of achievement for the University's LGBTQ, Ally and similarly-identified students," according to the university's website.

At K-State, Lavender Graduation takes place before the university's commencement events. According to the K-State website, the color lavender is significant to the LGBTQ community because it

is a blending of pink and black — two colors used to identify and discriminate against gays and lesbians. K-State's Lavender Graduation is hosted by the LGBT Resource Center and will take place May 5 at 2 p.m. in the Alumni Center.

Today, graduation is a time of reflection on accomplishments and excitement for the future. As students don their cap and gown in a few weeks, they will be following in the footsteps of thousands of other students who have tossed their caps before them.



# K-State student life: action, adventures, activities on campus



Emily DeShazer | Collegian

1. A member of the K-State Rodeo Club practices roping a calf in October 2012. The K-State Rodeo Club sponsors the K-State Rodeo every year.

Hannah Hunsinger | Collegian

2. Skylar January (left), senior in agronomy and president of the K-State Parachute Club with 206 jumps under his belt, and Todd Rider, junior in electrical engineering and treasurer of the club with 94 jumps, prepare for a jump over Abilene, Kan., on Feb. 3.

Parker Robb | Collegian

3. Attacker Derek Michelson, under pressure from a Missouri State defender, throws the ball to a Wildcat teammate during the K-State Lacrosse Team's match against the Missouri State Bears Feb. 9 at Memorial Stadium.

Evert Nelson | Collegian

4. Alex Ondracek, junior in biology, dangles off of the rock wall in the Peters Recreation Complex on Jan. 23. The rock wall is one of the many new amenities added to the Rec this year in the Rec expansion.

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